

[Shri G. Lakshmanan]

and walking out. I should like to know what subject we are discussing and anything that has been said outside the subject should be completely expunged.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: There is no question of any expunction. Our point is, the Prime Minister has made such a remark distinguishing between the overseas ladies and Indian ladies.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, what is taking place is outside the subject. What is this?

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): Sir, may I introduce the new Ministers?

1. Chaudhuri Charan Singh.
2. Shri Sikandar Bakht.
3. Shri H. N. Bahuguna.
4. Shri Raj Narain.
5. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, about Mr. Raj Narain, it is introductory induction. If it is induction, I can understand it because he requires no introduction. The only other thing is, Chaudhuri Charan Singh has already introduced himself to us; he has introduced himself very well the other day when he spoke. Therefore, it is all right. I am very glad that Mr. Morarji Desai came to introduce them before I raised that point.

REFERENCE TO INCOMPLETE COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS BY SAMACHAR

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Yesterday, Sir, after the Calling Attention Motion in connection with the debate on the Budget, I mentioned the names of a number

of officers who were part of the extra-constitutional centre of power, mentioned in the President's Address. I mentioned an officer called Mr. Bhinder, DIG of Delhi Police. I do not know why the Samachar has not circulated that name. Later in the evening, I mentioned the name of one Mr Misra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and a crony of Mr. Bansi Lai whom he brought from Haryana. These two names also should have been mentioned because I have given some names. These names should not have been omitted Mr. Bhinder's name should not have been omitted by the Samachar. I mentioned his name yesterday in the morning. Today he has been transferred to Haryana. But I would like to know from the Prime Minister, is it all that, only transfer?

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IM- PORTANCE..

Grave situation arising out of the acute drought conditions prevailing in major parts of Karnataka and in some other parts of the country

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now the Calling Attention.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह बताया नहीं गया कि विदेशी महिलाओं और देशी महिलाओं में क्या भिन्नता है । देशी महिला के बारे में बताया जाना चाहिए । .

(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : आपने अपनी बात कह दी है ।

श्री नृपतिरंजन चौधरी (आसाम) : अभी जो ध्यान कर्षण प्रस्ताव का नोटिस आपको मिला है वह ऐडमिट होगा कि नहीं ?

श्री उपसभापति : उसका निर्णय यथा समय दे दिया जाएगा ।

श्री नृपतिरंजन चौधरी : लेकिन निर्णय आज नहीं लेना है तो मंडे को यह नहीं आयेगा। ध्यानाकर्षण तुरन्त होना चाहिए, नहीं आयेगा तो उसका क्या इंपोर्टेंस होगा ?

श्री उपसभापति : आपकी भावनाओं का ख्याल रखा जाएगा।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the grave situation arising out of the acute drought conditions prevailing in major parts of Karnataka and in some other parts of the country

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, sir, until the 31st March, 1974, the Central Government used to grant assistance to the State Governments for natural calamities like drought, floods etc., in addition to margin money allowed to each State. From the 1st April, 1974 on the recommendations of the Sixth Finance

Commission, Central non plan assistance to the State for natural calamities was discontinued and the margin money for the State, was enhanced. When, however, the resources of the State Government fell short of the requirements of relief, the Central Government has been releasing advance Plan assistance against Plan schemes to be adjusted against the State Government's future entitlements. This was done to ensure that money is spent only on such Plan works as would be productive or preventive against natural calamities like flood, drought etc. During 1976-77, the monsoon, had been erratic and at places deficient with long spells of dry weather and early withdrawal. States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh approached the Central Government for advance Plan assistance over and above the margin money available with them. On the recommendations of the Central Teams which visited these States and the High Level Committee the Central Government have sanctioned advance Plan assistance as indicated below; —

State	Cropped area affected (lakh ha.)	Population affected (lakhs)	Margin money available (lakhs)	Advance Plan Assistance sanctioned by the Central Govt. (lakhs)
Kerala	2.52	30.15	30	150
Karnataka (originally reported)	82 talukas	82.72	191	760
Tamil Nadu	8.14	99.70	152	1875
Orissa	298 Blocks	105.39	358	510
Madhya Pradesh	47.3	63.00	341	Under consideration
TOTAL			1072	3295

[Shri Parkash Singh Badal]

The Government of Karnataka approached the Central Government for another visit of the Central Team as the drought conditions were reported to have extended to 35 more talu-kas. I have since decided to send a Central Team in this month to assess the situation in Karnataka.

The Government have 18.6 million tonnes of food-grains in stock and are in a position to supply whatever quantities of wheat and milo are needed by the State Governments in order to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System. The Central Government have reduced the price of milo from Rs. 88 per quintal to Rs. 70/- per quintal with effect from November 1976. The demands of foodgrains of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are being met in full. Karnataka Government have been informed that they should issue as much quantity of milo as possible particularly in the drought affected areas and the Central Government would make available to the State whatever additional quantities of milo are required. Even though the Central Government have been allotting 20000 tonnes of milo every month to the Karnataka Government, the offer against this allocation has been only about 10,000 to 11,000 tonnes per month. The requirements of rice for Karnataka are met from the stocks procured by them and in view of this there is no demand for rice. In fact, the Karnataka Government wanted to export some rice to other States but the Central Government had advised them not to do so in view of the drought conditions developing there. Even then, the State Government decided to sell 25,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala Government.

The Irrigation Commission (1972) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation identified 88 districts in 12 States which are drought prone. These include 13 districts in Karnataka State. About 12 major/minor irrigation schemes have been taken up in some of these districts during the

Plan periods. The State Government have also been advised to take up more schemes in these areas for conservation and optimum utilisation of the available water resources. An organisation has been created in the Central Water Commission to carry out in-depth studies of the identified drought districts/tehsils with regard to availability of water and their present and future requirements with a view to prepare schemes for transfer of surplus waters from the adjoining river basin where feasible.

The Government is fully aware of the need for a comprehensive national scheme to mitigate the severity of drought. The drought-prone areas programme was launched to reduce the impact of droughts in such areas. Seventy-four districts wholly or partly, in 13 States have been identified as chronically drought-prone areas. The strategy of development includes management of irrigation resources, soil and moisture conservation and afforestation, restructuring of cropping pattern and pasture development, changes in agronomic practices, livestock development and development of small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. Sustained efforts over a long period of time would be needed to bring these areas at least at par with developed areas of the country.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : यह जनता पार्टी के मंत्रीगण दूसरों को उपदेश देते हैं देशी भाषा का और स्वयं देशी भाषा क्षेत्र के होते हुए भी विदेशी भाषा का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। श्रीमन्, जनता पार्टी के मंत्री होते हुए भी यह जनता भाषा का तिरस्कार कर रहे हैं। जनता पार्टी के मिनिस्टर जनता भाषा का तिरस्कार कर रहे हैं इसको जनता देखे।

सदन के नेता (श्री लाल आडवाणी) :
इनकी मातृ भाषा हिन्दी नहीं है।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, sir, unprecedented drought conditions still prevail-

ing in parts of Karnataka a-ni Andhra Pradesh and also in parts of Tamil Nadu, in Orissa and other places. I have received a message from Karnataka to say that 117 talukas in 17 districts out of 19 districts in Karnataka State were affected by the acute drought situation. Nearly, 16,000 villages are affected. Fourteen million people including 13 lakhs agricultural workers are affected by this drought situation.

Sir, on 31st of August 1976, I along with some others had tabled a Calling Attention Motion drawing the attention of the then Government to the acute famine situation prevailing in Karnataka and other places. About 25 Karnataka M.Ps. had met the then Prime Minister on the 25th of August and had asked for a Central team to be sent to Karnataka to survey the situation. The Central team was sent and they visited the State on the 16th and 17th of September and submitted a report. The State Government had again asked for a second team to be sent there. I am glad that the Minister has now said that he is sending a second team to study the situation there.

So far, the Central Government has given assistance of Rs. 7,60,00,000 to the State Government. The situation in Karnataka is so serious and the problems are so many that the amount that has been so far sanctioned by the Central Government is very very inadequate. There is dearth of drinking water in thousands of villages which are affected in these talukas and there is dearth of fodder and many cattle have died. Distress sale of cattle has been going on in the State of Karnataka. Sir, minor irrigation works have been undertaken to provide some relief works. Everyday, about 5 lakhs of people are to be provided with some work so that they are able to earn their livelihood. Unfortunately, the resources of the State are not enough to permit the State Government to undertake this task. The amount of Rs. 7,60,00,000

sanctioned is very inadequate and before, 1974 whatever amount had been sanctioned by the Central Government and the State Government for meeting this drought situation and other calamities, has been given by way of grant or by way of loan and has to be recovered from the State Government within the course of ten or twenty years. But, now, after the Sixth Finance Commission's report and recommendations, the Central Government is deducting whatever money was given by way of assistance to the State Government, from the State allocation. This system should change and they should revert back to the old system that whatever assistance is given to the State Government, that should be recovered in instalments in 20 or 30 years and fifty per cent of it should be treated as grant.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, these are all chronic drought areas of Karnataka State and Rayalaseema is also a chronic famine area and there should be an authority to go into these questions....

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): There are also parts of Orissa which are chronically affected. Kindly include them also since you have got the chance.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: You are welcome to put the case of Orissa before the Minister.

So, I would urge that the Central Government should appoint a Commission to go into the question of chronic famine conditions prevailing in some parts of the country, particularly, in Karnataka, Rayalaseema and Tamil Nadu and other areas and this Commission should find out the reasons and also find out the solution to prevent recurrence of these famine conditions within a period of ten years. Sir, in Karnataka, the State Government had conducted a survey for locating the Bhadra project in Chitradurga district. This would

[Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy] help some three districts in the State which are all famine-affected areas. The river water disputes between Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are coming in the way of implementing this project. Now that powers have been given to the Central Government under the new Constitutional amendments, these disputes should be solved amicably and these disputes should not come in the way of implementing this project which is going to help large parts of the State with irrigational facilities. I would like to ask the Government whether they are going to assist substantially the State Government in meeting the famine situation in the State satisfactorily. I would like to know whether they are going to revive the old system of giving 50 per cent of the assistance as loan and 50 per cent as grant. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to appoint a commission to study the situation so that proper steps could be taken to eradicate the course of famine in this country.

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL:- Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have already explained in my statement the procedure in regard to the sanction of amounts. I have said in my statement that the system which was there previously has been changed. I cannot just now change that system. But I would consider his proposal. As regards the sending of a second team to study the problem and to assess the situation, I would certainly send a second team in this month. This would be a very high level team. After the team reports, I would do my best to solve this problem. I would also consider his proposal in regard to the commission.

श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा) : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, मैं पहले बादल साहब को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि वे खुद एक किसान हैं और यह अच्छा हुआ कि कृषि

और सिंचाई का विभाग आप ने सम्हाला है ।

श्री रणवीर सिंह (हरियाणा) : इसी लिये उम्मीद है कि वे 150 रुपये फी किंटल का दाम तय करेंगे ।

श्री रबी राय : उपसभापति महोदय, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो आंकड़े उन्होंने दिये हैं उन से पता चलता है कि केरल, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, उड़ीसा और मध्य प्रदेश में पिछले साल उड़ीसा में जिस तरीके से अकाल पड़ा उस में 13 जिलों में 298 ब्लॉक्स में अकाल पड़ा था और सूखा पड़ा था । इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह यह बतलायेंगे कि उड़ीसा सरकार की ओर से केन्द्र सरकार को जो निवेदन किया गया था उस के अनुसार क्या यह सही है कि 50 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता की मांग उन्होंने केन्द्र से की थी और पिछली केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उड़ीसा सरकार को 5 करोड़ 10 लाख रुपया केवल दिया था । इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो इस में अन्तर है कि राज्य सरकार ने 50 करोड़ की मांग की और केन्द्र की सरकार ने उड़ीसा सरकार को 5 करोड़ 10 लाख रुपया दिया, उस को पूरा करने के लिये माननीय मंत्री जी कुछ सोचते हैं ?

इसी प्रकार इरिगेशन कमीशन ने 12 राज्यों में 88 जिलों को अकाल और सूखाग्रस्त इलाका होने की घोषणा की है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इरिगेशन कमीशन ने 1972 में अपनी रिपोर्ट दी थी । तो उसके अनुसार जो सूखाग्रस्त इलाके देश में हैं उन में जिन गरीब किसानों का सवाल है और खास कर जो अकालग्रस्त इलाके से आते हैं वहाँ के किसान लाखों की तादाद में ऐसे समय में गांव छोड़ कर शहरों में भाग

जाने हैं और वहां भिक्षा मांगते हैं। मैंने देखा कि उड़ीसा में इसी प्रकार की स्थिति है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इरिगेशन कमीशन की जो सिफारिशें हैं उन पर, पांच साल बीत गए, क्या कोई कार्यान्वयन हुआ है और यदि पिछली सरकार उसका कार्यान्वयन करने के लिए असफल रही है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान सरकार आगे चलकर इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करने वाली है।

तीसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि जनता सरकार ने देश की बागडोर संभालने के बाद यह ऐलान किया है कि पंचवर्षीय योजना में आमूल परिवर्तन होगा। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ, चूंकि जो सूखाग्रस्त इलाके हैं वे सदियों से सूखे इलाके; सरकार की ओर से घोषित किए गए हैं और इसलिए सरकार उनको सहायता देती है और यह बजह है राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार से अनुदान मांगा है, और मान लीजिए, आगे चलकर जून महीने में फिर बारिश न हुई तो क्या हमेशा के लिए इन्द्र देवता के ऊपर भरोसा करते रहेंगे? इसलिए इससे उठता हुआ मेरा यह जायज़ सवाल है कि जिस तरह से हम हमेशा से, आजादी के 30 साल बाद भी इन्द्र देवता के ऊपर भरोसा करते हैं और सूखाग्रस्त इलाकों में जब समय पर बारिश नहीं होती है तो वहां की राज्य सरकार आकर केन्द्र सरकार से भीख मांगती है और राज्य सरकार को केन्द्र सरकार एक चौथाई, एक-बट्टे-पांच हिस्सा रुपया दे देती है तो उसमें कोई समाधान नहीं होता है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि यह जो इरिगेशन कमीशन की सिफारिशें हैं, और जो मेरा आखिरी सवाल था कि जिस तरह से पंचवर्षीय योजना को

सरकार परिवर्तित करना चाहती है और परिवर्तित स्थिति में जिस तरह से लोगों की मांग बढ़ी है और सूखी धरती को पानी मिलना है, तो इस सिलसिले में सरकार का क्या खास सोच है?

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the Orissa situation. As regards the Orissa situation, the rainfall in the State ranges from 1000 to 1500 mm. This State is also subject to recurrent drought. During the last 60 years, the State faced about 21 mild droughts, 12 moderate, 4 severe and 2 extreme droughts. The State Government reported on 15-10-1976 that a serious drought situation had developed following failure of monsoon rain during the crucial months of September and October. A Central Team visited the State in the last week of November. In 1976, though the agricultural season started somewhat late due to less than normal rainfall in June, the rainfall in July and August was sufficient but there was sudden break of rain from the middle of September and dry spell has been continuing since then. According to the State Government, out of 3830 Gram Panchayats, 3341 Gram Panchayats in 13 districts have been affected in varying degrees by droughts. After detailed consideration, and on the recommendation of the Central Team and the High Level Committee, the Government sanctioned advance Plan assistance of Rs. 510 lakhs.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I will refer to the drought-prone areas of Andhra Pradesh. It does not mean that there are no drought-prone areas in other States. I will leave it to the other Members. Particularly, in Rayalaseema which is a chronic drought-affected area—it is almost a chronic famine area—there is one Anantpur District, where the average annual rainfall is about 8—10 inches. A year ago, an expert team had visited Rayalaseema and they said that if

[Shri R. Narasimha Reddy].

certain permanent measures were not taken, this particular district would be in potential danger of becoming a desert. Sir, we can easily see the signs of desert in that district. There are small hillocks, where now we do not find a single tree. Even the turmeric trees which are supposed to be drought-resisting trees, have withered. As a result of this serious famine and drought situation this year in parts of Anantapur District, the poor labourers are finding no work because there was no agricultural operation. This area mainly depends on rainfall and if the dry farming is not there, the agricultural labourers do not get any work. Therefore, nearly a lakh of people have gone out of the District in search of employment. This is the situation, Sir, in that area. The normal procedure was that whenever there was a famine situation; or a near-famine situation, the Government woke up at the last moment and then pumped some money into the relief works—either giving doles, or free food packets or starting some road or earth works. Sir, the experience has been that the money which had been pumped into these things had, of course, been spent, the labourers did find work, but all the money which was spent went into unproductive works. We have been telling here that whatever relief money is sanctioned, it should be spent in productive works so that for future this problem is attempted to be permanently solved. Sir, I would, therefore, suggest to the hon'ble Minister to consider these few points.

The most important thing and the first thing to be taken up is regarding the supply of drinking water. There are certain villages—quite a number of them—in Rayalaseema and in certain areas of Telengana where even today the drinking water is scarce. If that is the situation today, you can well imagine how it will be in the month of May. In these areas, deep bore wells have to be dug and at least

drinking water should be provided to these villages.

The second thing is about minor irrigation works. There are lots of minor irrigation tanks which have been repaired and there is a possibility of new tanks being constructed. In certain areas even if there is no land to cultivate, tanks in the nature of a reservoir would have to be constructed so that the ground water level is raised. This is another measure which should be taken up.

Sir, this drought situation has come about, in my view, mainly because of the destruction of forests. I have been saying in this House repeatedly that unless we protect the existing forests and improve the forest wealth of this country, we will not be able to correct the imbalance in nature which results in the erratic monsoons which we are experiencing. Therefore, this also should be taken up as an important permanent measure.

The last thing I would suggest is that in these dry areas, the rainfall has very much decreased. It would take a long time to bring it to the normal by improving the forests. Meanwhile, what should be done? We should have certain crops and grasses and such other things which would grow with the minimum rainfall. Sir, we have a unit in Jodhpur in Rajasthan called the Central Arid Zone Research Institute. There was a proposal to have a unit of this Institute in Anantapur in Rayalaseema to study those conditions in which certain grasses can be grown and on the basis of those grasses, sheep-farming can be developed. Then certain pulses and other things which can grow and resist the drought situation—all this research work has to be done. We have already sent this proposal from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. I would request the hon'ble Minister to look into this and see that this branch of the Institute is immediately opened as one of the permanent measures. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL:
Full Anantapur district is covered by

DPAP programme. No Central assistance for drought situation has been asked for by the State Government. We shall consider it as soon as the State Government reports. Ananta-pur district has been given Rs. 4 crores by the Central Government in Drought Prone Area Programme in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL (Karnataka): The hon'ble Minister was pleased to say just now that he is going to send a second team to Karnataka very soon. I would like to know how soon he is going to send the second team and what is the time required to assess the situation and to submit a report to Government of India. I fully agreed with the view expressed by my hon'ble friend, Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy, that the situation is really serious. Therefore, some immediate action is called for. I would like to know when the second team is going to visit Karnataka, when it is likely to submit its report to the Government of India and when the Government of India is likely to take a decision on the basis of that report.

Further, I would like to know what is the total amount spent so far on providing relief works in the areas which are affected by drought in addition to the amount that has been sanctioned by the Government of India, that is, Rs. 7.60 crores. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that he has sanctioned Rs. 7.60 crores. This is advance Plan assistance. Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that it is not the time for us to reverse the decision of the Finance Commission because, then another Finance Commission has to sit and make recommendations and then only the Government of India can reverse the decision. Till that time we do not mind if advance Plan assistance is given to the State Government. In addition to the advance Plan assistance of Rs. 7.60 crores that has been provided, I want to know what is the amount spent by the State Government for providing relief works. I agree with another hon. Member who has said just now that

it is not difficult to identify the areas which are chronically drought-affected because, it is a chronic problem. Every year we discuss here in this House and also in the Lower House that there is drought in some parts of the State and in other States also. So, it is not difficult to identify the areas. Therefore, instead of spending *ad hoc* amounts for relief works, the Government of India should, even at this late stage, think of some permanent measures. For example, I can say that in the Bijapur area in Karnataka, we have taken the concurrence of the Government of India for the Upper Krishna Project which is supposed to be the biggest irrigation project but very little amount has been spent on it. If more amount is spent on it, then it is possible to irrigate more area which is drought-prone. Like that, why not think of some permanent measures instead of spending amounts on an *ad hoc* basis? And most of the amounts spent on an *ad hoc* basis are going to be infructuous and unproductive. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government of India, even at this late stage, is thinking of a permanent programme for the drought-prone areas.

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, as regards sending the team, I have already assured you that a team will be sent in this month and the team will be asked to send its report to the Government as early as possible. As regards the marginal amount, as I have already stated, Rs. 191 lakhs is at the disposal of that Government and they can utilise this amount for the drought affected people. Sir, as I have already informed you and through you, the House, we at the Centre have got a certain procedure. We give Central assistance to the State Government and it is entirely the job of the State Government to do the whole thing there. My position is to solve the food problem. We have got sufficient food there and there is no problem with regard to that. As regards assistance, Rs. 191 lakhs is already at their disposal, and after the report

[Shri Parkash Singh Badal] of the team is received we will consider the matter further.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the reply given by the hon. Minister is very disappointing. The fact that he said that the money is given by the Central Government to be spent by a State Government is all right, but the fact remains that when the State Governments ask for, say Rs. 50 crores in the case of Orissa, and may be much more in respect of other States, they sanction only about one-tenth or less than one-tenth of the money asked for. I fully agree with my friend from Karnataka who said that ad hoc arrangements do not lead us anywhere to solve the severe drought situation in the country. There must be some policy, some planning regarding long-term arrangements to save the people in the drought affected areas from famine. Nothing has been said by the honourable Minister on that. He did not touch that point at all in spite of repeated reminders by the Members. He did not say as to what is going to be the policy of the new Government in regard to the drought-affected areas. May I know specifically from the honourable Minister as to what the recommendation of the Central team that visited Orissa was and how the Central Government arrived at the specific figure of Rs. 5 crores odd when the State Government had asked for Rs. 50 crores. What was the basis? I would like to know whether it was according to the recommendation of the high-powered Central team that visited the State and reported the matter, or whether the Central Government came to some *ad hoc* decision in order to throw some money into the area to give some temporary relief to the people of this area. If that is so, I completely agree with my honourable friend from Karnataka that all money goes waste, nothing productive comes out of it. If they could add the grant for three or four years and give it to certain famine-affected areas which have been continuously suffering from famine, then they could have given them some projects and

helped them. And that could have saved the areas permanently or temporarily from drought conditions. There are areas in Orissa which have for the last 7 or 8 years, or may be 10 years, been constantly getting these ad hoc grants which are ultimately going waste because the unproductive works do not contribute in any way towards progress in the field of irrigation.

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: Sir, as regards the formation of the new policy, I will keep in mind the suggestions made by all the honourable Members. I hope that the policy will be clear after some time.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: What was the amount recommended?

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: That high-powered Committee consists of the Members of the Planning Commission and Secretaries of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and other Departments. They assessed the whole situation and recommended.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: What was the recommendation made by them?

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: Whatever they recommended, the Government sanctioned.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: They had recommended Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI PARKASH SINGH BADAL: Yes. The system is that we receive the memorandum from the State Government and then we send a team and on the basis of the report of the team and the recommendation of the high powered committee the Government sanctions the amount.

REFERENCE TO ALLEGED SPATE OF ENCROACHMENTS ON LAND IN DELHI

SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN (Delhi): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the reports of spate of encroachments on land which have started taking place in various urban localities of the Union Territory of Delhi. This is a recent